

*The President Wants \$200 billion for Iraq, but Education and Improved Health Care are too Expensive*

*(Washington, D.C.) This morning, the President rejected critical funding for health care, education, job training, and home heating assistance by vetoing the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. In response, Congressman Tim Ryan has issued the following statement:*

“President Bush’s veto of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriation bill shows how far out of touch the President is with the American people. It’s hard to believe the President can ask Congress for an additional \$200 billion for Iraq but refuse to fund education, worker training, and medical research programs on the grounds that they are too expensive.

“In addition to providing funding for federal domestic priorities such as health care, education, and medical research, this bill also provides \$2.25 million in funding for local projects in the 17th District. The Rich Center for Autism, for example, was slated to receive grants for both professional development and off-site classroom surveillance for parents. The Pathways to the Building Trades would have received funding for training opportunities for students in Youngstown and Warren to get hands-on experience that will lead to jobs in the construction field. The President’s veto also jeopardizes funding for our local hospitals, funding for Kent State University, University of Akron, the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce and Easter Seals of the Mahoning Valley.

“The President’s veto of the domestic spending bill jeopardizes not just our national economy but also economic progress we’ve experienced at the local level. Democrats have tried to work with the President and the minority party in Congress to make sure that the priorities of the American people are funded in a responsible manner.

“It is time for the President and his party to put America’s priorities first.”